

Published in the Sun Herald, August 15, 2010

Mr. Bruce Josten

Executive Vice President

Government Affairs

U. S. Chamber of Commerce

Dear Bruce:

I was dismayed and concerned to learn that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has issued a letter from you opposing H.R. 1264, the Multiple Peril Insurance Act. This is the **ONLY** bill that has come out since Katrina struck that addresses the insurance issues that affect rebuilding the Gulf States. The U.S. Chamber is against this bill, yet there is no alternative bill.

Five years following the nation's worst disaster, we are no better off than we were Aug. 29, 2005, with regard to national insurance issues. As the U.S. Chamber, you promote that you understand our needs and protect our interests and livelihood as if they were your own. Passage of H.R. 1264 is critical to the livelihood of small business and real estate reinvestment across the Gulf Coast. Yet, Washington has been less than forthcoming with solutions on this issue that will continue to arise for the next area that is hit by the next hurricane.

Following Katrina, insurance for homeowners and business owners sky-rocketed. For some homeowners, their insurance bill is higher than their monthly mortgage. And some small business owners have seen their insurance rates for commercial properties increase from 300 percent to 700 percent. The passage of this bill is critical to the rebuilding of the Mississippi Coast and should be of equal importance to other states that face disasters.

I urge you to change your position on this bill. And, at the very least, I hope you will remove this issue from your annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

TISH H. WILLIAMS,

Executive Director

Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, Mississippi Gulf Coast